

تلخيص مقال الدكتور صبري جبريس

## مشكلة السيكوباتية

في ضوء المنهج التكاملي

السيكوباتية اضطراب ذهاني يبدو بصفة أخص في صورة مشكلة سلوكية لا تكاد تميز في الظاهر عن كثير غيرها من صور السلوك المشكل .

والمنهج التكاملي في دراسته للشخصية لا يكتفي بالماضي بسلسلة علله ومعلولاته ، وبالحاضر بأساليبه واتجاهاته ، بل إنه يحتم أيضاً النظر إلى المستقبل واحتمالاته ، لأنه يعرف أن الشخصية كما تعرض في موقف بعينه ليست الإفصاح عن عوامل الماضي والحاضر فقط ، بل هي أيضاً تعبير عن المستقبل الذي لم يتحقق بعد .

كما أن المنهج التكاملي يعرف أن سلوك الفرد هو الإفصاح عن تيارات متعددة في حالة حركة دائمة داخل إطار الشخصية ، ومن هذه التيارات ما يرجع إلى التكوين البيولوجي للفرد ، أو إلى الخبرات النفسية التي اكتسبها ، أو إلى المواقف الاجتماعية التي يعرض لها ، أو إلى احتمالاته بالنسبة للمستقبل ، فهو إذ يربط في سلوك الفرد بين هذه العوامل جميعاً يعرض له كوحدة سيكولوجية تحيا في بيئة اجتماعية ، ويدرس الشخصية بالجمع بين وظائفها البيولوجية والسيكولوجية والاجتماعية في كل متكامل .

والجهاز العصبي هو أداة التكامل البيولوجي ، والذاكرة هي أداة التكامل السيكولوجي واللغة هي أداة التكامل الاجتماعي .

في المشكلات السلوكية ينبغي التمييز بين الحالات التي يكون السلوك السيكوباتي فيها عارضاً أو مظهراً لاضطراب آخر (كالعصاب أو الذهان أو النقص العقلي) ، وحالات السيكوباتية الأصلية . هذه الحالات تتميز أصحابها بسمات خاصة تشير إليهم وتدل عليهم بين مختلف صنف السلوك المشكل . يتميز « القالب » السيكوباتي الأصل بالبنشاط عشوائي اندفاعي لا اجتماعي أو مضاد للمجتمع ، مستمر ، ومتكرر لسكسب وهمي غير محسوس . وهو فريد في قصوره وعوجه والتواء أحكامه وعدم استبصاره وزيف أهدافه وجأجأته ووعثه وخواء وجدانيته ، فريد في تقلبه وسخفه وحماقته وقسوته وقلة جدواه . لا ينصح أصحابها من التجربة ، ولا يرتدعون من العقاب ، ولا يثبتون على هدف ، ولا يصلون إلى قدر ما من التكيف مع المجتمع ، ولا يعرفون الندم ، ولا يحسون العار ، ولا يحتنون شعور الخطيئة ، ولا يجالون لتعاملهم مع الحياة إلا شعاراً واحداً هو « أن يأخذوا كل ما يستطيعون ، من أي إنسان يستطيعون ، وبأية وسيلة يستطيعون » .

هذا الاضطراب الذي يفتك بالشخصية ويهدم من تكاملها إلى هذا المدى البعيد ، هو اضطراب ذهاني يحجز صاحبه عن تمثيل الزمن كخبرة حية . فالسيكوباتي لا يعرف من الزمن إلا الحاضر ، إنه لا يستطيع استعادة الماضي أو الاسقاط على المستقبل . والحاضر عنده هو اللحظة التي يعيش فيها وحسب ، مقطوع الصلة بما كان ، معدوم الارتباط بما سوف يكون . إنه اللحظة الراهنة لا يعرف سواها ولا يحتبر غيرها . وإنما بعد خبرة سطحية ، وقتية ، فجأة ، لا تمتد معه إلى حين ، ولا تنفذ فيه إلى غور ، ولا تدنيه اتصالاً بعالم الحقيقة الموضوعية .

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path. Indeed, the psychopath may be able to recall past events, but such recall never penetrates beyond the purely verbal or intellectual level. Memory fails to permeate his affective-conative life; it ceases to be a living bond between past and present experience.

Social integration is achieved, in the main, through language, which itself is dependent upon the fixity of the meaning of words. In psychopathic disorder there is marked derangement in the understanding of the meaning of words, i.e. words as the expression of affective-conative strivings. The psychopath is a persistent liar; truth is a chance incident in his life. But he does not always make an aim of lying; he merely lies because he is unable to assimilate the concept of truth. Language provides the psychopath with yet another means for aimless activity on that impulsive plane so characteristic of every domain of his behaviour.

Psychopathic disorder, although still frequently confused with some of the less serious forms of personality and behaviour anomalies, should be looked upon as a separate entity by itself. It implies psychological, social and possibly biological disintegration. Moreover, the assimilation of time as a living experience, which is essential for the harmonized and integrated development of the personality, is lacking. Psychopathic disorder should be dealt with in terms of a specific, far-reaching, incapacitating, psychotic disintegration which prevents the individual from experiencing objective reality and assimilating social values.

Integrated personality is permeated throughout by time as a living psychic experience. Once this synthesizing and harmonizing factor is lost or considerably deranged, the personality loses its solidity and integration. Disrupted and disunited into more or less separate events, personality in the psychological sense is lost, and what remains is biological individuality.

The psychopathic life-pattern is a flagrant example of personality disintegration determined by lack of the harmonizing influence of the temporal factor. The psychopath shows complete incapacity for the psychic assimilation of time as a living experience. For him time is just the present moment, unconnected with either the past or the future. All experience in the psychopath's life is superficial, transient and immature. It hardly influences him for any length of time, and hardly penetrates to any depth in his shallow affectivity. Despite his high intelligence, as judged by standardized tests, the psychopath shows persistent failure in social life. His behaviour is impulsive, unstable, egoistic and aimless; he is faulty in judgment, lacking in insight, unperseverent and incapable of profiting from experience. In all life situations he lives only in the present without being able to recall the past or project on the future.

It has previously been stated that for healthy integration of personality, the biological, psychological and social functions must be normal and act harmoniously.

The nervous system is the factor which controls biological integration. Up to the present, our knowledge of the relation between neural structure and function and behaviour does not allow us to go beyond general speculations regarding the influence of neural structure on behaviour traits. A great deal of work is being done on the nervous system, and among the many possible clues for the future we may mention the function of frontal lobes, thalamus, hypotalamus, and the results and significance of electroencephalographic findings. Recent investigations tend to agree regarding abnormal EEG tracings in a high percentage of psychopaths.

Memory is the basic factor in psychological integration. To all outward appearances the psychopath shows no noticeable memory defect. With regard to intellectual expression this may be true. But prolonged observation of psychopathic behaviour ultimately shows that memory as a means, of acquiring and registering experience, is greatly deranged in the psycho-

phallic phase, that is, in the beginning of the Oedipus situation and before castration fear leads to the formation of the superego. He emphasises the fact that the superego of the psychopath is not a normal one; otherwise he would have a better knowledge of the difference between good and evil, between reality and imagination. Alexander, on the other hand, is of opinion that the psychopathic disorder is essentially neurotic in character; indeed, he coined the term "neurotic character" for it. Unfortunately this term is too broad to bear a specific significance. The psychopath is supposed to be suffering from disturbing emotional conflicts, accompanied by severe guilt feelings, but instead of taking place within the ego and resulting in the symbolic manifestations denoted by the ordinary neurotic complaints, the conflicts in the psychopath occur between the ego and the outside. They are, so to speak, acted out, leading to the overt misdeeds of psychopathic behaviour. In answer to this it might be said that, apart from his general life-pattern already referred to, the genuine psychopath shows two features that are almost invariably constant and not without significance, viz his complete and inaccessible lack of insight and his utter incapacity to get himself to the transference situation in analysis. These two features are pre-eminently psychotic characteristics, and are hardly, if ever, met with among neurotics.

So disruptive is the true psychopathic disorder that one has to look upon it in terms of grave disintegration of personality.

It has already been shown that personality, as viewed by the integrative method, is not only the sum-total of past experience and the reaction to present circumstances prompted by that experience. It is also future potentialities. Fundamentally dynamic in its approach, the integrative method looks upon time as an essential factor in the normal development and maturation of psychic phenomena. In the psychological sense time is a continuous flux in which past, present and future flow indivisibly. In the "time being" the three temporal levels: past, present and future are represented. In other words, when faced with a present situation, the individual's activity will not only be determined by the psychic forces to which he is subjected at the moment, but will also be determined by his past experience and future potentialities. Discontinuity in temporal experience is a normal phenomenon in childhood. The child, living only in the present, is unable to postpone, as postponement means to him denial. The normally

personality consists in "an unawareness and a persistent lack of ability to become aware of the meaning-aspect of human life". Despite his otherwise perfect psychic functioning, the ordinary emotional accompaniments of experience are dissociated, but unlike the dissociation of the schizophrenic or the hysteric the dissociation of the psychopath extends "throughout all the range of experience", and effects "all the life reactions of the total personality". Furthermore this dissociation is "specifically applied", affecting the personality "only in one respect, though affecting it in this one respect throughout the whole range of experience... and would cut accurately and consistently throughout the integrative points of affect and block affective values all through the scale of living from being synthesized into whole or human experience". Cleckley puts the dissociation in terms of psychopathology as "a selective and far reaching dissociation involving primarily emotion and more indirectly purpose, particularly in the sense of those emotions and conative strivings that form a necessary part of life functioning at the complex and highly integrated levels of healthy human personality". To this form of dissociation he suggests the term "*Semantic Dementia* with its connotations of a mind or personality so damaged that experience as a whole cannot be grasped or utilized in its significance and meaning... in semantic dementia, the purposiveness, the significance of all life-striving and of all subjective experience are affected without obvious damage to the outer appearance of the personality."

In the end Cleckley summarizes the factors which might contribute to the formation of the psychopathic personality-pattern as follows: 1. Improper conditioning of responses, in the sense of Pavlov or Watson, or even in the more superficial sense of habit formation. 2. Libido fixation at some of the various stages of its development with consequent imperfections in sexual synthesis and direction, tendencies to serious conflicts and psychopathologic solutions. 3. Improper development of superego, and faulty interrelation among id, ego and superego. 4. The need to find means of escape from inferiority feelings.

There is some divergence of opinion among members of the psychoanalytic school as to the nature of the psychopathic disorder. Brill, for instance, suggests that all psychopathic personalities belong to some psychotic group and should be classified accordingly. Wittels tends to explain the psychopathic pattern in terms of libido fixation, which, he states, occurs at the

Henderson expresses the view that the psychopathic component may be present in the background of some psychoneurotic or psychotic patients. The presence of this component seriously influences the nature and prognosis of the disorder. In his opinion psychopathic behaviour shows dissociation of the personality that is more serious than the dissociation of hysterics, but which does not reach the point of psychotic disintegration. For unknown reasons, the development of the psychopath remains stunted, and he remains always on a savage and primitive level. Rational thinking is alien to the psychopath, and experience does not permeate his life. "The judicial, deciding, selecting processes described as intelligence, and the energising, emotivating, driving powers called character" do not work in harmony.

Henderson, however deals with psychopathic disorder in terms of maladjustment at the scio-psychobiological level. He does not favour explaining psychopathic behaviour by one mechanism of psychopathological processes, and thinks that the flight of the psychopath to his particular behaviour disorder is a reaction identical with the reaction of the neurotic or psychotic under similar circumstances. He points to some of the Freudian concepts which may throw light on the problem of psychopathy. He mentions in particular the pleasure-principle, the continuous struggle between life instincts and death instincts which are expressed in destructiveness and aggression, and the development of the superego (or conscience) and the feelings of guilt. He also discusses the psychobiology of fear which he is inclined to consider the link between the psychopath's antisocial attitude, his individuality and his psychobiological immaturity.

Cleckley, on the other hand, emphasises the psychotic nature of psychopathic disorder, although, he admits, it is a different kind of psychosis from all those now recognised. For him "the psychopath, however perfectly he mimics man theoretically, that is when he speaks for himself in words, fails altogether when he is put into the practice of actual living. And his failure is so complete and so dramatic that it could be achieved only by a down right *madman*, or by one totally, or almost totally, unable to grasp emotionally any of the ordinary components of meaning or feeling implicit in the thoughts he expresses or the experience he appears to go through. The psychopath's mental disorder or his difference from the normally integrated

#### IV. INTERPRETATION AND EVALUATION

This sketch of the psychopath presents a personality pattern that is grossly disintegrated. Like the psychotic, psychoneurotic, unstable adolescent, professional criminal, chronic alcoholic, drug addict and delinquent, the psychopath presents features of his own that should be distinguishable from any of the foregoing or other anomalies.

Psychopathy has frequently been described as lying in the border-land between mental health and mental illness. This definition, besides being too vague is, in our opinion, inaccurate and unjustifiable. The psychopathic disorder does not fit into the neurotic group, and judged by the classic psychotic manifestations (e. g. hallucinations, delusions, etc.) cannot be considered psychotic in the ordinary use of the word. But then it cannot be too much emphasised that the psychopathic pattern is strikingly characteristic in its persistent deficiencies, distortions and faulty judgment, his lack of insight, aberrance and futility of aims, his emotional immaturity and instability, his unevenness, shallow affectivity, impulsiveness, absurdity, ruthlessness, inability to learn from experience and complete incapacity for assimilation of social values and adjustment to the social milieu. The disintegration of the psychopath's personality is so complete that he has been described by Cleckley as being more of a human psychobiologic machine than of a complete man; or in Chornyak's words as stimulus-response organism.

This picture of the psychopath can leave but little doubt as to what category he belongs. The life pattern of the psychopath, though free from hallucinations, delusions and other classic manifestations of psychosis, is pre-eminently psychotic. The criterion of "sanity" and "insanity" suggested by McDougall, and to which we are in full agreement, namely, the patient's ability or inability to look after himself and his affairs without undue risk to himself and others, will definitely indicate the place of psychopathy in the domain of mental anomalies.

It must be admitted that the problem of psychopathy is yet far from being solved. The multitude of terms given to this disorder, and the wide variety of clinical types and entities described, point to the state of confusion in which the problem is still submerged. When we come to the more intricate questions of ætiology and psychopathology the problem is naturally more vague and complicated.

to establish "social rapport". In Cleckley's opinion the egocentricity of the psychopath is determined by his incapacity for object-love. In his psychosexual development, the psychopath has stopped at the narcissistic level; his libido is completely, or almost completely, directed to the self. The life history of every psychopath supplies numerous examples of his total disregard for the miseries in which he involves himself and others, however intimately related they may be to him.

The affective life of the psychopath is strikingly poor and shallow. The experience of sentiments, which is the finest development of civilized man, is completely lacking in the psychopath. What he sometimes exhibits in the form of indignation, anger, grief, pride, joy or despair should not be taken, in Cleckley's view, at its face value. Any one who has the chance of seeing how psychopaths react to the disgracing and tragic situations they involve themselves and others in, cannot help being taken by the callous indifference of their behaviour in these situations.

Together with shallow affect, psychopaths exhibit the most striking example of emotional immaturity and instability. The life story of the psychopath is a continuous demonstration of puerile attitudes on a more chaotic and disruptive plane.

The psychopath's impulsiveness and inability to postpone have always been among the outstanding features of his personality. The impulsiveness of the psychopath differs essentially from that manifested in other disorders. In spite of high intelligence, his behaviour, determined by emotional instability and poverty of affect, is only prompted by the needs of the moment, with complete disregard for past experience or future results.

The psychopath's lack of perseverance is another prominent feature that colours his life-picture in general and is particularly observed in his school career and occupational record. Planning is beyond the capacity of the psychopath. He can never set a goal for himself, unless, as is sometimes the case, it fulfils an immediate gain or fits into the psychopathic pattern. So much so that to the life of the psychopath may be applied what Stifter has said "in him we see only beginnings without continuations, and continuations without beginnings."

they deal with problems, and how carelessly they leave their jobs and kick away rare opportunities for gaining money and building up a career.

Judgment is a highly synthetic process on the finest intellectual plane. Karpman states that "in the psychopath judgment is impeded by the complete selfishness of the motives which prompt his behaviour. There can be no judgment where the individual has no appreciation of social values and social restraint, and sees in these only obstacles which he disregards or proceeds to remove without regard to consequences". Moreover, the impulsiveness of the psychopath and his inability to profit from experience must affect his judgment. In every judgment there is an essential element of recall and making use of past experience. The psychopath, whose behaviour is largely determined by momentary impulses, is unable to recall past experience or to project on future aims. Hence his immaturity, unevenness, puerile and defective judgment.

One of the most characteristic and outstanding features of the psychopath is his complete lack of insight. It is not difficult to understand why insight is lost in other mental anomalies. The psychopath, to all outward appearances at least, possesses all the elements of insight; and it is this point in particular which has caused a great deal of confusion with regard to the diagnosis of, and subsequent dealing with many cases of psychopathy. When we come to the test of actual situations we find the psychopath hopelessly blind to the significance of his acts. He cannot see his wrong-doings and will not confess that he made a mistake. His sense of personal value is morbidly distorted, and he is unable to make a proper evaluation of himself in relation to objective reality. He projects his own deficiencies on something or somebody else, and finds a ready rationalisation for everything he does. If, however, the psychopath is forced to express his regret or show repentance, it is only a verbal expression that is devoid of affective content. He only mimics insight, but insight as a living experience is beyond his capacity. (1)

Egocentricity is always a prominent and significant feature of the psychopath. It is manifested in his complete inability

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(1) The reader is referred to the excellent discussion of the psychopath's lack of insight by Cleckley in his work "The Mask of Sanity"

chopathic pattern the following traits can be clearly demonstrated (1).

The psychopath does not show intellectual defectiveness or deterioration. His intelligence, as shown by standardised tests is average or above average. Yet he hardly passes the test of social situations. Intelligence, as Karpman states, implies the ability to adapt one's self to new situations, and the creation of new situations to which to adapt. In this sense it involves "the capacity for adjusting to the environment, making new contacts, setting and reaching a goal and utilizing past experience for the present and future". It is here that the psychopath seems hopelessly deficient. His intelligence fails to get him any nearer to social adjustment, and it is characteristic of the psychopath that he will repeatedly commit the same act, sometimes after a very short time, without being deterred by punishment or being able to learn from experience.

The psychopath seems to have total disregard for truth. He does not care whether his lies will be discovered, and would go on telling more lies without showing any sign of shame. Words of truth uttered by him are either a matter of mere chance or a means of serving an immediate goal. It is amazing how the psychopath often lies for no gain at all, or even when truth serves his ends. It would seem that he lies because he is incapable of experiencing the meaning of truth. Language for him is reduced to a collection of words that have practically lost their common significance.

Remorse is totally alien to the feelings of the psychopath. He will not accept blame for anything he does and will not take the responsibility of his actions. In his pursuit of pleasure he does not hesitate to exploit people or situations in the most ruthless manner. He cannot be bothered by pity or kindness, and the feeling of gratitude is far beyond his capacity. As Cleckley says, he might confess his wrong-doings and utter words of repentance, but repeated example shows that this is merely a verbal expression lacking in truth and sincerity. It is only a means of getting out of trouble.

In spite of their high intelligence psychopaths show conspicuously deficient judgment. It is surprising how easily and unprovokedly psychopaths create trouble, how defectively

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(1) The following sketch has been drawn from the study of group IV in our cases. Reference to individual cases is not attempted for lack of space.

consequences, and the psychopath's married life is ended with the same impulsiveness as it is started. The presence of children hardly changes the attitude of the psychopath towards family and home.

It is interesting to note that in two of our group (Wand I) masturbation was a daily practice ever since puberty. It was indulged in even after promiscuous relations with numerous women. Masturbation in these cases may be explained on the ground of psycho-sexual infantilism, with accompanying egocentricity and narcissism. Homosexual practices (sodomy) constitute a prominent feature in the life of S. Unconscious factors could not be revealed in his case, and the homosexual practice was evidently a psychopathic means of earning money.

We do not feel justified in accepting the formulation of sexual types in the classification of psychopathy. Sexual aberrations and anomalies certainly do occur among psychopathic personalities, but they are rarely constant, and are, in a sense, manifestations of the general disorder rather than separate entities by themselves. Most authors describe numerous types in the classification of psychopathic personality. In our opinion this is unjustifiable as well as confusing. It is not important to be able to put a label to the disease as much as to discover the life pattern of the individual. However, two types of psychopathic personality may be distinguished, with numerous intermediate grades: the aggressive and the inadequate. Classification of human beings is, at the best, arbitrary; and in endeavouring to find out to which type a certain psychopath belongs, we must first make sure that the prime motive of his life is, in Karpman's words "to get anything he could, from any body he could, in any way he could".

### III. A SKETCH OF THE PSYCHOPATH.

To the casual observer the psychopath hardly betrays any sign of abnormality. He is attractive, intelligent, witty and free from any psychoneurotic, psychotic or other abnormal manifestation in the ordinary sense. Yet on closer observation he is seen to be suffering from a deep, far-reaching disorder that grossly distorts his relation to reality. In the true psy-

ves to the restrictions imposed by work or reveal any sense of duty or responsibility. For them work is a casual experience, to be abandoned as soon as the caprice for it is gone. A few may show temporary adaptability, but this only lasts as long as they can make of work a means of exploitation and personal gain. As soon as work ceases to be of benefit in this psychopathic sense, it is abandoned with utter carelessness and indifference. Their occupational record is either one of unemployment and vagrancy or of frequent change of jobs for no apparent cause.

7) Alcohol and drugs : Some psychopaths never take alcohol. Those who take it usually drink themselves to excess. Alcoholism in such cases is not determined by psychic conflicts, nor is it a manifestation of a pre-psychotic or early psychotic state. The neurotic drinker who uses alcohol to escape reality has been admirably described by Strecker and Chambers. For the psychopath, on the other hand, alcohol is a means, among others, of pursuing pleasure on an immature level. Indulgence in drinking does not change to any noticeable extent the personality of the psychopath, and none of the deeds of the psychopathic drinker could be attributed to the effect of alcohol alone. Alcohol might add to the paresis of inhibition characteristic of the psychopath, but it should not be held solely responsible for the flagrantly bizarre conduct of the psychopathic drinker, as it cannot create a trait that is not already there. Indeed, it is difficult to meet with any noticeable difference in the psychopathic personality pattern between the drinking and the abstaining groups, or between periods of indulgence and abstinence in the same individual.

8) Sexual life : is of particular interest in this group. Psychopathic sexuality is characterised by immaturity, instability and lack of definite aim. Psychopaths are no less devoid of the sense of moral and social responsibility than of family bonds and ties.

The psychopath may get married, but never with the intention of settling down to home life and meeting family responsibilities. He does not mind, when getting married, being out of work, homeless and penniless ; nor does he mind whether his wife belongs to the lowest social and moral strata, and would not hesitate to exploit her in prostitution if he finds the chance. Desertion, separation and divorce are inevitable

2) Environmental factors : are fair in 2 cases (W and K); moderate in 4 (L, O, I, and D); bad in 2 (S and R).

It seems that in members of this group neither hereditary nor environmental factors bear a constant or direct relation to the behaviour disorder. Great diversity may be seen in these factors without a corresponding variation in the behaviour pattern.

3) School achievement : is on the whole low among all members of this group. With the exception of W who, after special effort, graduated from a higher college, all other members could not go beyond the primary education or the junior grades in the secondary school. In general, school-life is characterised by backwardness, poor adjustment to school discipline and defective contribution to school activity.

4) Age : ranges between 18 and 30. In 5 of these cases (W, S, O, I and R) the disorder dates back to early childhood, which was really never free from one sort or another of abnormal manifestation. In the other 3 (L, D and K,) the early childhood seems free, at least from such gross behaviour disorders as would attract the attention of the family and cause worry to them. But the disorder becomes flagrantly manifest in late childhood and early adolescence.

5) Onset of delinquency and antisocial behaviour : it is not always easy to determine when did the delinquency among members of this group start. Many of them have shown from their earliest childhood failure to assimilate the meaning of property ; and the distinction between right and wrong has remained vague and indefinite in some (L, S, O and I).

The antisocial record of members in this group is full. However varied and different their deeds may appear they all show one characteristic in common, viz, a disposition to exploit others financially, as manifested in direct stealing (cases L, S, O, I, D and R), or in embezzlement (case W), or in swindling and forgery (cases O, I, R and K). Among the other manifestations of antisocial behaviour may be included vagrancy, quarrelsomeness, sexual assault, aggressiveness up to homicide etc.

6) Work and occupational history : there is hardly a psychopathic trait that is so persistent and constant as occupational maladjustment. All members of this group show the same lack of perseverance and none could adjust themself-

development", and that "a large though unknown proportion of sociopaths are schizoid and potentially schizophrenic", etc. The confusion caused by this attitude, highly unjustified in our opinion, cannot be over-estimated.

On the whole, the distinction between psychopathic behaviour as a manifestation of the well-known psychotic disorders and the true or genuine psychopathic group should present no difficulty. The personality pattern, with its sensitivity, retirement, shut-in and introverted tendencies characterises the schizoid group. At the onset of psychotic reaction, divorce from reality becomes more complete; judgment becomes more markedly distorted the further it is detached from objective values, and the occurrence of hallucinations, delusions and typical bizarre conduct ultimately completes the psychotic picture.

In the manic phase of the manic-depressive psychosis the antisocial behaviour is nearly limited to the psychotic episodes and is most marked during them. This with the other characteristics of the manic attack and the relative freedom from symptoms during the intervals in between should easily differentiate the case from true psychopathy. Some difficulty, however, may be met with in cases of hypomania, but the genuine psychopathic picture cannot ultimately be confused with any other disorder.

Group III (Mental Defectives): includes cases T and Y. The I. Q. is low and school achievement is very limited. Maladjustment and continuous clashing with society and authority are marked features in these cases. Inability to profit from experience, violence, destructiveness, impulsiveness immaturity, and inadaptability are also persistent features. The behaviour in members of this group is fixed and hardly variable, poor in personal stamp and limited in its mode of expression. No matter how it resembles the true psychopathic pattern in outward expression, it can always be easily detected as the outcome of low intellectual endowment.

Group IV (True Psychopaths): includes cases L, W, S, O, I, D, R, and K.

To facilitate description a resume of their life-histories is given under the following headings:—

1) Family history: is free from taint in 4 cases (L, W, O, and K); slightly or moderately tainted in 3 (I, D and R); highly tainted in one (S).

Unconscious sexual conflicts in this group, however, can be frequently seen operative behind their antisocial behaviour. In many strong attachment to the mother with other evidence of unsolved Oedipal situation could be demonstrated. Incestuous tendencies may also be present, and in (B) these tendencies betrayed themselves quite freely in dreams and masturbation phantasies. The repeated incendiary acts of (F), more or less of the nature of an irresistible impulse, were almost invariably applied to the father's *bed*.

These quick remarks do not claim to exhaust the numerous mental conflicts that might be operating behind the delinquent or antisocial behaviour in these cases. However, they indicate that the antisocial behaviour in this group is a manifestation of neurotic conflicts or adolescent instability. As Healy, Aichhorn, Gillespie and others have clearly shown, symptoms of delinquency can arise from a neurotic basis. The severity or persistence of the delinquent behaviour does not contradict its neurotic origin. Many of the symptoms and outward manifestations of neurotic or adolescent delinquency may closely resemble true psychopathic behaviour. But on closer scrutiny it will be seen that the semblance does not extend beyond the overt behaviour. In the neurotic group symptoms of delinquency are the expression of psychic conflicts. The behaviour may appear psychopathic, but the life "pattern" is indeed characteristically neurotic.

Group II (Psychotics): includes cases M and N. In this group the antisocial behaviour may extend for some time during the pre-psychotic and early psychotic stages before the true nature of the disorder is suspected (schizophrenic reaction); or it may be limited to episodic outbursts in periodic psychosis (manic-depressive reaction). In the first instance care should be taken not to confuse the schizophrenic reaction with true psychopathic behaviour. In the pre-psychotic and early psychotic stages of schizophrenic reaction the individual's behaviour may go aberrant, and the antisocial trends in it may assume such dimensions as to be labelled psychopathic. After some time the schizophrenic reaction manifests itself in its classic, unmistakable form, and it is then that some authors are apt to mix between the two disorders. Indeed it has been openly stated that "a remarkable number of them (i.e. of psychopathic personalities) become schizophrenic. Psychopathic Personality is a common ground for schizophrenic

the ill influence of environment is clearly manifest. In two (B and F) there is a broken home, parents separated during early childhood and re-married, and patient always staying with a step-parent. Childhood in both is characterised by anxiety, emotional insecurity and deprivation. In the third case (G), although the home situation in this respect is apparently better, yet (B) never felt really secure, his childhood was consumed by inferiority feelings towards his elder brother, whom he felt was taking up all his parents' attentions, with subsequent indulgence in phantasies of jealousy, hatred and revenge.

In all, school achievement is poor, irregular and below average, particularly so with the onset of puberty. Frequent truancies and disregard for school discipline are common among members of this group. Later on in adolescence the more gross manifestations of behaviour disorder invariably begin to show, but however violently they might be expressed, they never attain the ruthless and inhumanly cruel dimensions which will presently be shown to characterise the behaviour of the true psychopathic group.

Adjustment to work is an important feature of this group. Unlike true psychopaths who show persistent lack of perseverance and defective adjustment to work, members of this group may show good adjustment when given the suitable work. (B) after a long record of dismissals and failures in his school career seems to have settled down when allowed to pursue the line of study he previously desired. (G) also is showing fair adjustment and the record of his work during the last 15 months is a fairly good one.

Members of this group do not show strong attachment to alcohol and drugs. Alcohol, when indulged in, seems to be used and attempt to evade intolerable situations, an escape from disturbing conflicts or a means to avoid facing failures.

Sexual activity in members of this group also has its characteristic features, which may indicate the psycho-sexual immaturity of the individual. But it is never a means of exploiting others. Sexual control and behaviour according to high moral principles are not uncommonly met with. Promiscuity, deceit and swindling through false promises to women, so characteristic of true psychopaths, are conspicuously absent among this group.

mon and as much as possible definite meaning. And it is through this fixity of meaning that language comes to be the means of integration on the social level, or the factor of social integration in the personality.

This rapid and necessarily incomplete survey of the foundations on which the integrative method in psychology is built makes it clear that any factor which influences the nervous system, memory or language in an adverse manner will at the same time influence the healthy development and integration of personality.

## II. CASE STUDIES

The present study is based in the main on a group of 15 patients of the inmates of Abbassia Mental Hospital, Cairo. The one and only factor considered in the choice of these cases was their gross asocial or antisocial behaviour. A detailed life-history was taken in every case, with verification from family, friends and other sources, whenever that was possible. Prolonged observation of the cases, extending from one to three years was applied, and observation of discharged cases was extended extra-murally.

This group of cases includes patients from different classes of society, from the privileged and the financially secure to the poor and deprived. All grades of education are also represented, from high-college graduates to illiterates.

In 12 cases intelligence was within average limits (I.Q. 90-110), in one above average (120), and in two below average (65 & 70).

Seven of these cases came to the hospital as offenders, the remaining eight were admitted in the ordinary official way at the request of the family. All the cases presented on admission gross behaviour disorders of an asocial or antisocial character. Among the more common manifestations may be mentioned : persistent lying, stealing, swindling, vagabondage, truancy, unemployment, setting fire, sexual misconduct, alcoholism, drug-addiction, violence, excitement, destructiveness, temper tantrums etc.

These cases have been subdivided into four groups.

Group I (Neurotics and Unstable Adolescents): includes cases B,C and F. History is free from hereditary taint, but

attach much importance to the factors of freedom and will as influencing or directing the behaviour of the individual.

The study of personality, however, remains far from satisfactory if we concentrate only on past experience and present attitudes. Future potentialities must also be reckoned with. Personality develops according to a certain "pattern". This pattern, as it is presented in a given situation, is not only the expression of past and present, but also of future.

From the biological view point the human animal is not different, qualitatively at least, from any other living organism. In him, as in all other members of the animal kingdom, the nervous system is the means through which communication with the external environment takes place. In addition, the nervous system integrates the functions of the different organs and systems of the body, and regulates, controls and modifies the different metabolic processes that are continuously taking place therein. The nervous system is the means of integrating the personality on the biological level, i.e. the factor of biological integration.

At birth and for sometime after it, the newly born infant is in a state of indifferentiation, i.e. he is unable to differentiate his body from the external world. It is only gradually and through the ever-accumulating experience that this differentiation takes place. The child starts to feel his "ego" as something separate from the outside world, and there is a more or less clear distinction between self and what is not self. As his development goes on and the body of acquired experience grows, this distinction becomes clearer and clearer. In this complicated process of psychic development memory plays the essential role. It is through memory that experience is registered, to be made use of in appropriate situations. No psychic development would be possible had it not been for memory. In this sense memory is the means of integrating the personality on the psychic level, or, in other words, the factor of psychological integration.

As the child grows within the social milieu, he gradually adopts the means of communication common to the particular group in which he lives, and that is language. His wealth of words rapidly grows, and in due time he is able to use language on a symbolic and abstract plane. In order that language may attain this indispensable value in the relation of the individual to his environment, words must have a com-

# AN INVESTIGATION INTO PSYCHOPATHIC PERSONALITY

Being an Attempt at Evaluating the Problem  
of Psychopathy in the Light of the Integrative Method.

By

Sabry Guergues M.B., M.A.

## I. THE METHOD

“Psychopathic Personality” is the term applied to persons suffering from a group of behaviour disorders that affect in the main the relation of the individual to his environment, and are characterised by an asocial or antisocial attitude. It is not the aim of the present paper to review the different stages through which the concept of psychopathy has passed, nor to discuss the multitude of terms given to the disorder. For this purpose the admirable review of Sydney Maughs can be consulted. It suffices here to state that the present confusion of thought regarding the problem of the so-called “Psychopath” necessitates attempting a clarification.

The present investigation was carried in the light of the integrative method. By the integrative method is meant that method of approach which deals with man as a socio-psychobiological unit. Personality, normal or abnormal, is the outcome of the interplay of a multitude of factors, hereditary, constitutional and environmental, in the broadest sense of these terms. It is not the summation of its constituent traits, nor is it a synthesis of these traits. It is a dynamic concept in which the biological constitution of the individual, his acquired psychic experience, the social situations to which he is subjected and his future potentialities are all integrated into an unitary whole.

There are several methods of approach in the study of personality. The cross-section method concentrates on the present. It deals only with manifestations of behaviour as they are presented in a given situation and at a given moment, paying particular attention to the problems of freedom and will.

The genetic method concentrates on the past. It aims at discovering the long chain of cause and effect which extends throughout the whole life story of the individual. It does not

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